

ILLEGIB

Honorable John C. Stennis  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Stennis:

When I appeared before your Committee on Armed Services on January 24, 1974, we spoke briefly of the use of satellite photograph outside the intelligence community, in particular for civil purposes. I expressed a desire to submit a formal statement on the matter and you agreed. My statement is attached; I hope it responds to your expressed concern.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby

Attachment  
Statement

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Orig addressee

1 DCI

1 DDCI

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1 AD/DCI/IC chron

1 AD/DCI/IC ARGO file

1 CS/IC

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Statement by W. E. Colby  
Director of Central Intelligence  
on the  
Use of Satellite Photography

Study last year by the Office of Management and Budget and by other agencies at other times has shown that intelligence satellite photography, if available to certain federal agencies outside the intelligence community, would permit them with economy of cost, effort and time to carry out more effectively some of their responsibilities under law. Applications such as pollution monitoring, urban development planning and disaster relief assessment are typical but by no means exhaustive. The domestic agencies understand and agree that such help would not in any way be permitted to interfere with the foreign intelligence use of these photographic satellites. I would be prepared to request reimbursement to the program when identifiable costs were incurred.

The CIA would not participate in the development of statements of need, nor in the handling and interpretation of results. In fact, these other federal users would be required to organize themselves, would state their needs to my representative, and would to the degree possible and feasible -- a by-product as it were -- receive the materials that they requested under proper security and sanitization. The only role

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of CIA and the intelligence community in this would be in the operation of the intelligence satellite as it passed over areas of interest.

Based on our related foreign intelligence experience, I can assure the Committee that we project a very modest requirement from these federal agencies. Moreover, I would permit no interference with my foreign intelligence responsibilities. I recognize the concerns of the Committee regarding CIA involvement and I share them. I have sought nonetheless to be open-minded so as to assist in avoiding a parallel and expensive program which might not meet needs so well, nor certainly so soon.

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